

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 4 - Number 1

OCTOBER, 1955



"OUR DAY OF DECISION — SEPTEMBER 25"

Kenneth Griswold of Daisy presenting the turnover chart, while Allen Sounders of Chotonoogo reads the Scripture of the Loymen's Training Session held in Crossville First Church.

TOWARD A BETTER WITNESSING CHURCH

(Excerpts from an address by Dr. Fred A. Busch-
meyer, made at DeKoven, Wis.)

"The one major need in our church is to become more conscious of our obligation to become a more witnessing church. We say that we are the wealthiest, that we are congenial, that we are intelligent-- but we never say 'we are a witnessing church'. The church is supposed to be the body of Christ-- supposed to be a clear witness that by the grace of God in Jesus Christ a man has discovered power. He lives in us and we live in Him. We have left to the Salvation Army and the queer sects the whole matter of a real witness. We forget the call to be witnessing churches-- yet this is the first proper mark of a church which is true to its historic gospel heritage and the needs of the present day.

"In the contest between Western civilization and Russian communism for the friendship of the new Orient, most Americans would be shocked to see the witness to our way of life borne by many American citizens in the Armed Forces. At home we have grown familiar with the crowded domestic relations courts, great upsurges of juvenile delinquency, increasing accidents where excessive drinking is involved. We have also become accustomed to the fact that a full 40% of our population has no religious affiliation as a guide to responsible living. We have segregated ourselves from these problems and life in better communities. But when these same conditions are projected on the new social and political frontiers where we want to 'win friends and influence people' we see them in a new light. It is in this light that the new Orient is making up its mind about what Western civilization stands for.

"The witness of the Armed Forces abroad is of course mixed. At some points it is fine. At many it does nothing to dignify and enhance our reputation for either sobriety or worthy sexual standards. In touring the battlefields in Korea, I did not see a single general who could not have made a college president-- well educated and a high caliber gentleman. I asked them, 'What are your problems?' The answers were: 'We do not have a single problem that is not a reflection on the failure of the American home and the American school.' There were schools everywhere, striving to bring men up to the level of the fourth grade in education so they could perform the duties of a soldier. This was a projection of American life as the Koreans and Japanese saw it. On the train I saw groups of American soldiers drunk-- illustrating American and Christian culture! I listened to the stories of the chaplains and it was a strong indictment of the witness of Christian civilization.

"And yet in Korea more funds were given per capita for the orphanages, hospitals and churches than was given here at home. What are we pastors prepared to offer them when they return home that is halfway as dramatic as they have already experienced? They came from our parishes. They will be returning to our parishes. You may say, 'This is the land of the free and you can believe

or not believe just as you choose.' That attitude may cost the life of your son next month. The fact is that whichever way they act, members of the Armed Forces bear a witness others can observe. Our witness abroad is not our missionaries and our state department officials. Our witness is G. I. Joe.

"In like manner, every Christian Church bears a witness. Whatever be our personal inclination, our witness may be something to which we give conscious attention and carefully articulated expression. Or it may be simply the pious apathy or the agitated business that people see in the ways we conduct ourselves as members of the Christian Church.

"In all ages the Christian Church has been called into being 'to bear witness to the saving power and grace of God revealed and made available by Jesus Christ.' To bear witness to the relevance of this grace and power for contemporary needs is the specific call of each generation. Such a relevant witness is certainly called for in a day when communism, selfish individualism and new nationalism threaten the fundamental fabric of what we like to call our Western civilization."

Our Day of Decision

In the picture below Frank Gordon (center, standing), president of Laymen's Fellowship, is answering a question put by Merrell Rhodes of Tallassee (standing, left), in one of the Laymen's Training Institutes for the Every Church Canvass.

Area institutes were held at Chipley Oak Grove, Tifton Vanceville, Andalusia Antioch, Crossville First, Steppville Mt. Grove and Alexander City Hunt churches, beginning with a supper.

Superintendent Butterfield and layman Frank Gordon spoke at all sessions, presenting the materials, giving out the packets made up for each church, and instructing the laymen in procedures.



LAYMEN AT WORK

It was wonderfully inspiring to meet with the large groups of men at the area meetings on September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, when instructions were given for the laymen's first participation in the Convention-wide task of presenting Our Day of Decision to the churches of the Southeast Convention on Sept. 25. The task of presenting to their churches for action the suggested goal for Our Christian World Mission for the year 1955-56 was accepted with enthusiasm. All reports received at the time this is being written show how well the laymen are performing the task, for the suggested goal was accepted in each report.

At these meetings your Convention president brought to the attention of the laymen how little our church has grown in this area during recent years, not in accordance with the population increase and quite a bit below the increase shown by nearly all the other denominations. If we want our church to again become one of the leaders, we laymen must share with the ministry in an evangelistic program. To do so, we need to be trained to do effective work, and a suggestive training program is being prepared. This program will be under the direction of the minister and can be adjusted to the needs of each church.

After the material is available, there will be additional area meetings starting as soon as possible after January 1. A number of suggestions were offered by laymen at the recent meetings, which indicated their deep interest and desire to bring more people into their churches, but at the same time acknowledging they needed to be trained to do the job and were willing to enter into the proposed training program.

Another phase of the program will be preparing laymen to assist in church services, to conduct services in the absence of the minister, or carry on the work of the church during periods when they are without a pastor.

Several of the ministers of the area have offered their services in preparing and conducting the proposed program. All others and laymen are urged to review the needs of YOUR church and send in suggestions as to material needed, most suitable time and places for meetings, and whether you desire help from outside your church in starting your program.

Send this information to me at the Convention office, 673 Piedmont Avenue.

—Wm. Frank Gordon, president
Southeast Convention Laymen's
Fellowship

Cradle Roll Member

Mrs. W. F. Wynn, well-known to Georgia women, announces the birth of a seven pound, five ounce granddaughter, Pamela Ann Mathis, on Sept. 30 in Macon, to A/C and Mrs. James A. Mathis of Robbins Air Force Base.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Mathis, Sr., of Waycross.

Miss Emily Wynn of Johns Hopkins Hospital

Share Our Surplus

The Missions Council has mailed to all churches a letter from Dr. Earle Ballou appealing for a Thanksgiving offering for the Share Our Surplus program, so generously supported by our fellowship last year.

The SOS program is a cooperative effort of all major Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations including the Congregational Christian Service Committee through which U. S. government stocks of surplus food and other commodities are distributed free to homeless, hungry and destitute people throughout the world overseas.

This distribution, preponderantly of foodstuffs from our store of abundance (to date mainly dairy products, cottonseed oil, etc.) is made possible through the voluntary gifts of Americans through their individual churches.

Valued at \$49,535,028, this vast amount of life-giving supplies would, loaded in boxcars, make up a train more than 40 miles long. Areas in which SOS foods currently are being distributed include: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Chile, East Pakistan, Egypt, Formosa, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Liberia, Nigeria, Okinawa, Paraguay, Philippines, Turkey, United Kingdom, West Pakistan, and Yugoslavia.

The opportunity for this truly "people-to-people" sharing of our national abundance by Americans is made possible under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 which provides that any food commodities in government surplus stocks which are deemed in danger of being wasted may be made available for free distribution to needy people, both here and abroad.

Under the provision of the Act, what domestic need there is for such free distribution is first satisfied, with the overseas distribution coming from the remaining abundance.

There is no charge to the religious or other voluntary agencies for the foods or other commodities from the surplus stocks. They are a free gift of the American people to the needy of the world.

Costs of transportation within the boundaries of the United States are defrayed from government funds, as is the ocean freight cost to a major portion of the areas served by the SOS program. In some of the countries where SOS foods are distributed, the local governments are able to assist by defraying transportation charges within their boundaries.

The only cost to the SOS program in this great opportunity for ministry to the homeless, hungry and destitute, is the actual cost of distribution, plus such overseas and inland transportation

(Please turn to page 12)

in Baltimore, Md., came home to be with her sister.

Mrs. Wynn was able to tear herself away to attend the Georgia-South Carolina Conference in Chipley, Oct. 5-6, and participate in the Women's Fellowship program.

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STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt.Editor

Rev. Annie R. Campbell....

Minister, Christian Education

Mrs. Ed. A. AlbrightRegistrar

Mrs. Jettie LoganPromotion

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They Broke a Dollar Into Little Pieces

A few years ago some inquisitive fellows in the U. S. Dept. of Commerce decided they'd figure out what the average American spent his money for.

They used a dollar as a yardstick. Here's what they found out:

For food he spent a little over a quarter.

For shelter, about 17 cents.

For clothing, another 12 cents.

For transportation, about 6 cents.

For taxes, roughly a dime.

For amusements, 4 cents.

For doctor's bills, 4 cents.

And, being a frugal fellow, he laid another 8 cents away in savings, in stocks and bonds or insurance.

There were other small items-- tobacco, barbers and beauty shops, and so on.

BUT WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE GOT THE SMALLEST PART?

You guessed it, GOD did!

To his church, he gave, not a tenth of his dollar. Not even one hundredth part of it. He gave a little over three-quarters of a cent!

A Worthy Project

An appeal is made to all Congregational Christian women across the country to send coupons from many commonly used products to the Christian Orphanage, P. O. Box 157, Elon College, N. C.

The coupons from the products named below will not mean much to the individual users, but in large quantities they will mean a great deal to the orphanage, and many of them have double value when presented by the orphanage.

Octagon soap products, Borden's evaporated and condensed milk, Luzianne coffee and tea, Ballards flour and mixes, Mrs. Filbert's margarine and salad products, Health Club baking powder, Rival dog and cat food, General Mills products, Gold

A Day of Remembrance

In agreement with the vote of the General Council of our churches, the Congregational Christian Historical Society suggests that Sunday, November 21, be held sacred as a Day of Remembrance for those heroic men and women who, at great sacrifice and with much suffering, prepared the way for us and the generations still to follow. Such a day set apart by the churches to thought and prayerful consideration of what are the blessings we enjoy by reason of the Father's travail of soul and body, will not only give a true meaning to our national observance of Thanksgiving Day, but will recharge our lives with rekindled faith and devotion to those principles they thought were worth more than even life itself.

They were pioneers in the realm of the Spirit, testing God's leadership for men. They sought to know His mind and to draw from Him those insights to truth upon which they could build their own lives more in harmony with His teachings and to open the way for better living for all men. Again and again their words, as preserved for us express the fervent hope that out of their sacrifices and their experiences, those who would come after them might enter a fuller and freer life. They lived not alone for themselves but for us in this generation and for ages to come. Let us then study their lives, profit by their experiences and give thanks to Almighty God that these men and women lived and worked. Let us make this day a day of remembrance. Forefather's Day should be made a day of worthy significance by our churches.

—Frederick L. Fagley, Secretary
Congregational Christian Historical
Society

FOREFATHERS' DAY PRAYER

(May be used in unison)

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers, in their pilgrimage, walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion. Still to us, their children, be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night; where but in thee have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and are ever nigh. In sorrow thy comfort renews our life. In prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from pride and selfishness. O Thou sole source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints, who have trusted Thee and have been left desolate. Not of our witness, but by thy tender mercy, hear our prayer; in Jesus' name.—Amen.

Medal flour, Softasilk cake flour, Wheaties, Cheerios, Kix, Sugar Jets, Betty Crocker cereal tray, Bisquick, Betty Crocker pie crust and cake mixes, Pillsbury flour, and mixes.

This is the only orphanage owned by Congregational Christian churches. Won't you help this little bit?

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, president
Alabama Women's Fellowship

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

Christian Laymen and Christian Stewardship

Congratulations, laymen! Early reports indicate that you did a grand job on "Our Day of Decision". In this issue may be found a report on early returns from the Every Church Canvass.

At our training sessions I was much impressed by the eagerness of laymen to know more and do more about the work of the Church. In so many ways the laymen showed a concern, an eagerness and a readiness for big jobs in terms of Christian responsibilities. My own experience, as I have travelled among the churches, has brought me surprise after surprise as laymen respond to a specifically religious and spiritual appeal. I'm afraid that many of our ministers do not yet have the adequate confidence in their laymen. Our laymen don't want to be "protected" and "coddled"—they want to be "challenged" and put to work. Our laymen want to be good Christian stewards, but, alas, all too often the program of the church is too small to be challenging and the minister is fearful of pushing his people "too hard".

If we can engender the true spirit of Christian Stewardship within our people, the Congregational Christian Churches of the South will be well on the way toward the "New Day". Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities and material possessions, based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in His service, for the benefit of all mankind. If the life of every member and of every church were based on this concept of Christian Stewardship, we would gloriously fulfill "Our Christian World Mission".

In Philips translation of II Corinthians, we read:

"All I will say is that poor sowing means a poor harvest. Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the man whose heart is in his gift. After all, God can give you everything that you need, so that you may always have sufficient both for yourselves and for giving away to other people."

—(II Corinthians 9:6-8)

"For your giving does not end in meeting the wants of your fellow Christians. It also results in an overflowing tide of thanksgiving to God. Moreover, your very giving proves the reality of your faith, and that means that Men thank God that you practice the Gospel that you profess to believe in, as well as for the actual gifts you make to them and to others.

—(II Corinthians 9:12-18)

The truth of these words can work wonders in our lives today, just as they must have stirred to action the members of the church in Corinth hundreds of years ago. Let's regain the pioneering spirit of our forefathers. Let's launch out into new



REV. ERSTON M. BUTTERFIELD

programs of Church Activity, Christian Stewardship, Fellowship Cultivation, Visitation Evangelism, Social Action. So what if someone says, "Oh, but we've never done that before"? We can do it now. Let's strive for the multiplication of our heritage of Christian Love as we strive for a strong financial status. We must and will achieve complete self-support as churches of the Southeast Convention, but what good will it do us if we are cold, indifferent, and lifeless-- churches seemingly without a purpose or a mission? A re-appraisal of the value to us of our Congregational Christian freedom and responsibility, and the theology undergirding our faith, is urgently needed if we are to fulfill our destiny here in the South-- if we are to effectively meet the religious needs of people in our community, nation and world.

Let us never forget that our "mission" is to people. Only as we forget self and turn to help others do we know the joy of the Christian Life. Congratulations, laymen! May God continue to bless us as we march on to the New Day together.

—Erston M. Butterfield

Announcement

Mrs. Ed. A. Albright, SEC registrar and assistant treasurer, announces that she became a proud grandmother on Oct. 4. Edward Allen Albright III, weighed in at seven pounds and one ounce and arrived right in the midst of writing the copy for Southeast News, delaying the magazine two days!

Young Eddie is already the smartest and most beautiful baby in the world (quoting the grandparents), looks like his mother with curly hair and a dimpled chin, and has long legs and big feet like his father.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

The Chief Speaks

Work Day for Christ is just around the corner. October 22 is the date, and your community is the place. This is a big event in our PF year, and all of us should put forth an honest effort to make it just such an event in our own local group. Last year 608 groups throughout the country made \$26,591 from Work Day for Christ. Let's all do our part to make that figure even larger this year.

Support your local district organization. Has your group been sending delegates to all district rallies? If it hasn't, get on the ball and . . . well, get on the ball. A district rally without delegates is like a person without blood . . . dead. I don't like dead things! Do you?

Be studying, thinking, praying about our forthcoming Southeast PF Meeting. As you know, it is to be held this year in Chattanooga sometime during the month of March. Four PF'ers from each church in the Convention are eligible to attend. Be thinking about who you want to represent you. You might even want yourself! Huh?

Treasurers, start punching Jim, Johnny, Joe, Susie, Mary and all the rest. Get started now on collecting that 25c from each member. In the near future you'll be getting a letter from Bill Green, our Southeast Convention PF secretary, asking for that money. And don't get caught broke. I don't like broke things! Do you?

Study the Indian American. This year Pilgrim Fellowship has pledged itself to become informed about these fellow citizens and to learn more about our Congregational Christian ministry to Indian churches. Several Indians will probably attend the Chattanooga meeting. Let's get real busy and get real educated on the Indian American-- so we won't be ignorant. I don't like ignorant things. Do you?

Lastly, and as a summation of the above, let's all set our hearts and minds to the task of pushing PF to the top. Consider these few things I've outlined above-- set your creative minds to work and do something else . . . something new maybe . . . different . . . but all for the betterment of your group, the district, the Convention, the church, and the upbuilding of God's Kingdom.

The first half of our PF year was good; the last half can be better . . . that is, if each and everyone of you will get behind the PF "Ball of Progress" and push . . . real hard.

—Millard Fuller, president
SEC Pilgrim Fellowship

Central Association Rally

Held on Sunday, Aug. 28, at Seman Congregational Christian Church, the Central Association PF rally had the theme of "Working For Christ" with "Work, For the Night is Coming" as the theme song.

The program began with an impressive worship service and welcome, followed by workshops on the three commissions. The Rev. Annie Campbell



BETTY SLATER

The Southeast Convention chairman of Pilgrim Fellowship Action Commission is Elizabeth W. Slater, better known as Betty. She was born in Albemarle, N. C., June 27, 1937, and is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater of Chattanooga Pilgrim Church.

Betty is a freshman at the University of Tennessee, studying in the college of Home Economics. For years she was active in Girl Scouts, and while in High School served on various committees and clubs. In her Junior year she was elected to Girl's State; in her Senior year she served as co-chairman of the Orphans' Day, was a sponsor for ROTC, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Betty has always been interested and active in her church, serving as PF president last year and attending the National PF meeting in New Haven in 1954. She is a member of the choir, has taught S. S. and for a year was leader of the Junior Church.

During the summers of '54 and '55, Betty served as Student Summer Service worker in the Southeast Convention, and she has held office in the Kentucky-Tennessee PF.

Betty plans to come home often to attend the local church program at Pilgrim and to serve the area in her capacity as commission chairman.

gave a brief talk on "Workday For Christ" after which there was group singing.

Reports were given by each local church on PF work. In this way ideas were exchanged and plans were made for the future. Business meetings and reports from the committees followed.

Rev. Thomas Shreve gave the closing benediction, and Miss Campbell showed a filmstrip while supper was being prepared. More group singing, talks and filmstrips rounded out a very successful PF rally.

Church News

On Sept. 10 the Lanett PF held a car wash at the home of Mrs. A. D. Harry. Mrs. Pate Dunn and Mrs. Ruth Smith helped to prepare and serve a luncheon of hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings at the noon hour. Men assisting with the supervision and car washing were: Charlie Miller, John Dollar, Jr., Cooper Cannon, and Frank Moon. Mrs. Charlie Miller also assisted. Boys and girls washing the cars were: Buddy Collier, Waymon Seymour, David Hill, Charles Sorrell, E. L. Miller, Linda Looser and Phillip Harry.

Millard Fuller has accepted the supervision of the entire PF organization during the coming church year. We are looking forward to a very full and active program for our youth.

* * *

Headland Blackwoods PF recently elected the following officers: president, Wyndal Hand; vice-president, Lowell Kennedy; secretary, Ouida Danford; treasurer, Betty Faison; chairmen of commissions—Faith, Genella Kennedy; Action, Carolyn Hicks; Fellowship, Isaiah Johnson.

Our latest project is finishing the new hymnal holders on the backs of the pews. We plan to begin a Bible study course soon with Rev. Hand as teacher. One of our goals is to have every member a daily Bible reader.

Our most recent social was an ice-cream supper with approximately 40 in attendance. Volleyball, rhythm and singing games were enjoyed by all. And during each meeting we gather around the piano and learn all the new songs in the hymnals we helped to purchase.

* * *

PF RALLY AT CHIPLEY

The PF District Rally held Sept. 25 at Oak Grove Church was well attended. The Lanett group had charge of the opening devotional service, which began at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Workshop sessions on the three commissions were held during the afternoon, with Albert Van

Attention:

ADULT ADVISORS!

(Taken from PF Preview)

It's new. It's brief! A sixteen-page booklet is available to help you in your job as adult advisor to a senior high PF group. It is a primer for the uninitiated, and a review for the "old hand." Sections on elements in the PF program will be equally useful for your youth officers too.

Here are the titles of some of the many helpful sections: "What Makes a Good Group?", "How to Plan the Program", "The Weekly Meeting", "The Worship Service", "The Business Meeting", "Discussion", "Recreation", "The National Pilgrim Fellowship", and "Resources." Get your copy now. Order from SEC office, 673 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, 20c. Title: The Adult Adviser of Pilgrim Fellowships by Henry R. Rust.

Cleave as chairman of Faith, Millard Fuller as chairman of Action, and Bill Green as chairman of Fellowship.

Harrell Hardy, president, chaired the business meeting, and delegates were urged to participate in Workday for Christ.

The Oak Grove PF was in charge of a very enjoyable social hour.

The meeting ended with installation of officers and a communion service.

New Officers for Valley District are V. R. Dobson, president; Patsy Yancey, vice-president; Peggy Hammock, secretary-treasurer.

* * *

The Women's Fellowship of Elder Church has purchased flooring to finish the upstairs section of the church. Several of the boys and men have worked and put down floors in two Sunday School rooms already, as well as two small hallways.

The first Sunday in Sept., the annual Home-



East Alabama women at their annual meeting on September 25 at Langdale. Officers are Miss Paralee Hill of Phenix City, president; Mrs. Vernon Carter of Wadley, vice-president; Mrs. Thomas Miles, secretary, and Mrs. A. D. Harry of Lanett, treasurer. Mrs. Harry Barr is Friendly Service Chairman.

coming was held at Elder. As usual, this was an enjoyable occasion with a large number of the members and friends who have moved away coming back home for a day of worship and fellowship at their old home church. Several former pastors were also present.

In the afternoon, Dr. Van Cleave brought a very inspiring message. A history of the church was given and special music enjoyed by everyone.

* * *

The Headland Blackwood Church Women's Fellowship recently installed hymn book holders on all the pews. The Pilgrim Fellowship is refinishing the holders. The Women's Fellowship also purchased a coffee urn for the church.

Under the leadership of M. E. Rister the Sunday School is growing in numbers and effectiveness. The Christian Education Committee is working to improve the program. A new class was created for the four and five year olds with Miss Pat Hodges as teacher. The Nursery Class, under the direction of Mrs. Pera Kennedy, will be able to function better because of this division of children.

* * *

Antioch Church of Andalusia sponsored a spaghetti supper with great success. The menu was new to us, but the plates sold well and we're looking forward to some more spaghetti soon.

In August our Women's Missionary Society entertained the ladies from Andalusia First Church with a supper and a program. We heard reports from those who attended the Women's Retreat held in Wadley. During September we entertained the ladies from Coldwater Church. All of us enjoyed these meetings, and the opportunity for fellowship.

Our church was host to the Every Church Canvass training session on the evening of Sept. 14th. The meeting began with a supper, and representatives from our church were Claude Stewart, Albert Baisden, and Bruce Clark.

The Rev. and Mrs. Berry visited in the new England states during September, as their vacation, spending some time with Mrs. Berry's parents in Williamsburg, Mass. While they were away our morning worship services were conducted by the Sunday School classes of our church, and we had some very impressive services.

—Winnie Dye, reporter

The Rev. Scott Morris, Jr., formerly pastor of the North Georgia Parish, has been called to serve Andalusia First Church. The Rev. and Mrs. Morris will be moving to the field the latter part of October.

* * *

Things have really been happening at Phenix City United Church, according to a monthly "Newsletter" mailed out by the pastor, the Rev. John B. Crutcher—a copy of which was received by Southeast News.

The sanctuary floors have recently been refinished and credit for the improved appearance was given to Mr. Koon. The church has a "bawl room" for babies and young children during services, with the worship service reaching the "Bawl Room" through the new sound amplification system. Thus the attending mothers do not miss the service.



New idea for Cribs in church nurseries.

A Choral Concert will be given by the church choir on the evening of Nov. 5, with an offering to be received and used toward the purchase of choir robes.

On Oct. 2nd, seven new members were received into the church: Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Browning, Mrs. Emma Johnson Williams, Luther Fewell, Horace Hickman, Patsy Crutcher and John Crutcher. Six others joined the church during the evening service.

Church officers were elected as follows: Miss Paralee Hill, church clerk; Harry Barr, S. S. Superintendent. Mrs. O. C. Hilyer, Miss Elsie Edwards and Miss Patsy Crutcher were the church delegates to the East Alabama Association.

Miss Claudine Bloodworth is leading the women's group in a drive for a rug for the sanctuary aisle.

S. S. attendance has averaged 110; morning worship has averaged 115 the past two months.

* * *

In the absence of our pastor, the Rev. Joe A. French, on Sept. 11, James Dollar of Langdale most ably spoke at the morning worship hour in Lanett Church. The service was led by Herman Cook.

Our laymen were well represented at both the Laymen's Fellowship meeting in Columbus Aug. 26 and the Every Church Canvass Training Session at Oak Grove Church on Sept. 16th.

A union service of welcome for the new Disciples of Christ pastor, the Rev. Wm. C. Campbell, was held on the evening of Sept. 11. The Rev. Campbell delivered a most helpful sermon to a large audience. Prior to the worship service, the combined laymen's groups met together. After the service the young people met in the Fellowship Hall for an hour of group singing, worship and refreshments.

A meeting of all newly elected Sunday School teachers and assistants was called on Sept. 18. S. W. Seymour, superintendent, and the Rev. French presented important plans which were discussed

and some preparations made for our new Program of Progress in 1955-56.

Annual reports were presented from each circle at the Missionary Auxiliary Meeting on Monday evening, Sept. 19. Mrs. Frank Hatcher, president, is to be commended for heading a good year's work. A courtesy gift was voted for Miss Faye Looser, who has helped Rev. French to make our new Year Books.

Mrs. Cooper Cannon will be the church reporter for the next year.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

* * *

At the annual business meeting on Sept. 17th, the Highway Church near Lanett voted to change the church's official name from Lanett Highway to the **Huguley Congregational Christian Church**. Since the church is located in Huguley community, the new name will help people to locate it.

The congregation also voted to begin raising funds for a building program. This has been under discussion for some time, and the plan is to add an extension across the back of the church, 28 by 40 feet with basement, the basement to contain kitchen, fellowship hall and rest rooms; the upper part for Sunday School rooms and minister's study.

The Laymen's Fellowship took as a project the improving of the church grounds. They built a walk to the road, a concrete wall across the lower side of the church yard, and had a new driveway fixed. The laymen have been very active and shown much interest in their project. James Raye was elected president, and Avery Brown is the new secretary-treasurer.

The Women's Fellowship had an installation of new officers recently, as follows: Mrs. Johnnie Ragland, president; Mrs. Ed Ferrell, vice-president; Mrs. Thelbert Brown, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Eula Crenshaw, floor chairman; Mrs. Sam Brand, contact chairman. We chose the same project this year as last year—paying for a child's lunch all year at school. We also set aside a sum to assist in paying insurance on the church and parsonage.

Miss Lessie Mae Brown, president of our PF, attended the District Rally held in LaGrange. We have about eight active members and hope to double this by the end of next year.

—Mrs. Johnnie Ragland, reporter

* * *

SOUTH GEORGIA NEWS

Ambrose Church has called John W. Blankenhorn as pastor, Bristol Antioch has called the Rev. C. W. Rowland, and Pearson Union Hill has called the Rev. Dixon Stimpson of New York State. Ft. Valley First Church has called the Rev. Paul Pike. The Rev. Rowland is also serving Waycross Williams Chapel Church as interim pastor.

Douglas First has scheduled a revival to begin Oct. 16th, with the Rev. Lynwood Hubbard preaching. The Reverends E. S. Fetner, M. B. Porter and M. O. Worley conducted revivals at Enigma, Union Hill and Vanceville, respectively, in August.

A district rally for Pilgrim Fellowship was held at Pearson Union Hill on Sept. 25th, with the Union Hill young people in charge of the program.

The district Sunday School Workers Conference was held at Union Hill on the evening of Sept. 30th.

—A. Goff Bedford

Columbus First Church was host to an area meeting of Laymen's Fellowship on Aug. 27th. R. L. Howell presided, and the ladies of the church served a fine chicken supper, giving the proceeds to the work of the laymen in the area—about \$60.

The pastor and his wife, the Reverends Peter and Mary Doherty, were honored by having Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gordon of Atlanta as guests at the parsonage. Mr. Gordon spoke to the laymen on Saturday night, taught a Sunday School class Sunday morning, and also brought the morning message at the service.

The congregation has voted unanimously to build a new church, notwithstanding the fact that a new annex was recently built to the 53 year old church. More room is needed to carry on the work, and the church continues to grow. H. E. Williams, chairman of the Board of Deacons and president of the laymen's fellowship of First Church, is doing a grand job of directing the local men's program.

New members continue to come into the fellowship of the church, and five were received within the past two weeks.

On Sept. 11th, Miss Mary Jane Dean and Lt. Martin Luther Futch of Fort Benning and Bradenton, Fla., were married in the church. The pastor, Rev. Doherty, read the double-ring ceremony.

Organist Mrs. Peter Doherty and soloist Jack Kenny joined to present a number of nuptial selections during the wedding. Included were "Because, I Love You Truly" and "The Lord's Prayer."

Lt. Robert Gray stood with the groom as best man and guests were seated by Lt. Jesse Bishop Gibson. Miss Velva Walters was maid of honor. The Rev. T. J. Dean gave his daughter in marriage.

After the wedding the couple was honored at a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Dean at their home. Assisting at the reception were Miss Sara Snell and Mrs. Paul Lively. Miss Jeannette Jackson kept the bride's book.

Lt. and Mrs. Futch will make their future home in Colorado Springs, Colo., where the groom will be stationed.

—Mrs. Mary Doherty

* * *

Last month **Tifton Vanceville Church** held a "clean-up day" to work on the church lawn, pruning the hedge and oak trees. These trees were transplanted in 1918 by the Rev. H. W. Elder and W. A. Hand. Although both have gone on, the trees are still loved, especially by the few charter members of the church yet living. And their shade is enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Henry Abbott and Mrs. Walter Hand attended the annual retreat of the Women's Fellowship at Waycross Family Camp.

Our Vacation Bible School was conducted by Miss Sally Higginbotham and Miss Jerry Paul, Aug. 22-27. Attendance was fairly good, including a dozen pupils brought daily from Tifton by the Rev. Goff Bedford, pastor of Tifton First Church. Thirty-two received certificates. We hope to have an even better school next year.

Rev. M. O. Worley preached during our revival, which began Aug. 29. Interest and attendance was very good.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

(Please turn to page 10)

Dr. Truman B. Douglass Speaks For Union

The desire for unity among Christian groups is rapidly becoming one of the major tests of an individual's devotion to the Christian cause, Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, executive vice-president of the Board of Home Missions, declared in *Advance*, published Sept. 8. (Read complete text if you are a subscriber of *Advance Magazine*.)

The article, which urges union among Christian denominations, was published to explain the philosophy of the forthcoming union between the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This union, now scheduled to be affected by a meeting of both groups on June 25, 1957, will result in a new denomination, the United Church of Christ, with more than two million members.

"In order to justify their present existence," Dr. Douglass said, "denominations feel obligated to keep alive the pretense that the ancient quarrels which first brought them into being have never subsided."

"The tragic fact is that the church is unable to point convincingly to the answer of Christian faith because it is unable to show that it lives by this faith. Small wonder the world never dreams that the church might impart to it the secret of community, for the church is so obviously not itself a community, visibly united and reconciled-- one people serving one Lord and joined in His service by unbreakable bonds of gratitude, fellowship and trust," Dr. Douglass said.

"To be complacent about a situation in which the truth of the church's gospel is so loudly contradicted by the facts of the church's life is either to underestimate the crisis of man and his civilization or it is to doubt that God has really committed to His people any true and adequate answer to this predicament," he said.

Referring to the new union, he added, "it will put new heart in an American Protestantism that at one moment sincerely mourns the unhappiness of its divisions and at the next seems to acknowledge that it is stuck fast in them and sees no likelihood of finding the way to wholeness.

"The plain truth is that the Protestant bodies in this country desperately need a few ecumenical successes. The failure of the Presbyterian-Episcopal negotiations and the postponement of reunion of the three Presbyterian bodies have been serious blows. In some quarters there is a dismal sense that American Protestantism is impotent to alter what it repeatedly acknowledges as wrong. For whatever may be said in favor of organizational diversity as representative of variety in religious experience, it is clear that our contemporary denominationalism is almost totally unrelated to the real and significant differences in Christian faith and practice. Our denominational system has considerable relationship to the past, very little to the present and none whatever to the future," Dr. Douglass said.

The title of the article is "Great and Honourable Actions . . . Answerable Courages", and it is being reprinted in an eight-page folder, available

in any quantity which you may wish for distribution in your church. If you would like to have one or more of these folders, please write to the Southeast Convention office in Atlanta and tell us how many you would like to have.

Dr. Douglas points up seven values in the proposed union, and the advantages to the Congregational Christian churches, saying the union will strengthen and fulfill our Congregational Christian purposes in the way they have most typically been advanced in all our history as a people.

Even though we in the southeast do not especially like the name selected for the churches after union, "The United Church of Christ" because of the conflict with another strong southern denomination with a similar name, the values of and the purposes for the union as outlined by Dr. Douglass are worth reading and thinking about.

Church News

(From page 9)

Ft. Valley Society Hill Church has called the Rev. Paul Pike (recently serving Andalusia New Home and Coldwater churches) as pastor for the coming year. Much progress is anticipated under his leadership.

Our revival meeting was held Sept. 4-11, with four visiting preachers. Each message had a deep spiritual value to everyone. We have an average attendance of 100, and one new member joined the church.

We were grieved over the death of one of our beloved deacons, H. L. Walker, chairman of the Board of Deacons. Mr. Walker passed on to a better and fuller life on Aug. 18th, and is greatly missed by all.

Our new pews are to be delivered Oct. 15th, and we are looking forward to this. Our midweek service is growing, with everyone receiving an extra portion of God's mercy and blessing from it.

—Mrs. T. B. Jackson, reporter

* * *

Chattanooga Pilgrim Church had the annual S. S. Teachers Retreat on Spt. 25th at the home of Mrs. G. E. Farmer on Signal Mountain. The Rev. Annie R. Campbell met with them to go over materials for the coming year and showed a filmstrip, "Old Testament Heritage".

After supper the group took up young people's work in the church, and also tried out "Role Playing", a recommended program builder for young people's groups.

* * *

The S. S. officers and teachers of the Soddy and Daisy churches met together in Daisy Sept. 26-27 to discuss teacher training and better Christian education programs in the churches. Miss Campbell showed the teacher-training filmstrips, and the group also discussed work with the young people of the churches.

* * *

The Women's Fellowship of Demorest Federated church met on Sept. 28, and Miss Campbell spoke

Congregational Christian Missionaries At Work

Sidney Gilchrist, Canadian doctor, writes: "There were a lot of people in the Dondi Hospital (Angola, South Africa) operating room last night. Two missionary doctors, one Portuguese missionary nurse, one Canadian missionary nurse, two African students of nursing. These are the folks whom you would have seen had you been there. But there were others present whom your eyes could not have seen.

"Behold the things and the people that your eyes might have seen-- doctors and nurses passing instruments, maintaining transfusions, running smoothly that most beautiful of all corporate human efforts-- an efficient operating room service with pulse and respirations, ether and mask, oxygen apparatus, blood pressure, color and reflexes.

"Who are the others-- the invisible friends of Africa? Their name is legion. They gave the cents and dollars to build the hospital and to send the missionaries. They place in the "red" side of the Sunday envelopes the missions money to buy medicines, instruments, and equipment. We have with us other very special friends. They seem close to us in the green-tiled operating room. An old doctor who has operated many a night by the light of electric torches, wick lamps, gasoline pressure lanterns, car headlights, etc., casually asks the assistant to direct the modern operating spotlight a little more accurately on the surgical field. The room is brighter than the day. And the old doctor finds time for a prayer of gratitude to a lady in British Colombia whom he has never seen and who saw fit to send money to Africa that, when we wished, the night should be light around us.

"As we work here, YOU work with us. YOU are the invisible friends here in this room of operations, of new hope, of life restored and life prolonged. We do not forget you."

Miss Helen Dizney, missionary nurse in Southern Rhodesia, reports the results of the Hospital Milk Fund: "You who have sent money for the milk fund-- may your tribe increase! As a result of a near famine condition last year malnutrition is worse than ever among babies and small children. Right now I have five cases that are on the "thick milk" treatment, ten ounces every three hours. The last case to come in is a child abandoned by her parents and left for a grandmother to care for. She has not had milk and fresh vegetables so she has developed the usual symptoms-- swollen hands, feet and face, patches of discolored skin over the body, straight hair and a constant cry. They never want to take the milk so we use various methods to get it down their reluctant throats-- spoon, medicine dropper or nasal feedings. Later we add gruel, vegetables and liver to the diet. In time a smiling mother takes a happy baby home and we hope the mother has under-

to them about materials in the women's packet and also study books. The filmstrip on Women's Gift was shown.

Southern Union College

"Off to a flying start" is the keynote at the Southern Union College where the enrollment for fall quarter now stands at 140--the highest in the school's history. Housing facilities are filled to capacity with active, eager students from the Southeast area.

The orientation program for incoming students included a series of tests to help the counsellors in student guidance; worship experiences under the leadership of the Rev. Carl J. Landes, college chaplain; social events both outdoors and indoors and general chatting between students and new faculty members. Twenty-four courses are being offered this quarter.

A new member of the faculty is Dr. William Anderson Broyles of State College, Pa. Dr. Broyles will teach courses in the Science department and comes well qualified for his work. He holds degrees from Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois (Ph. D.) and taught for many years at Penn State. Last year he was on the faculty of Piney Woods School in Mississippi.

As a service to both the resident student body and the Wadley community, Vesper services are held in the College Chapel each Sunday evening at 6:30. The Rev. Miss Carolyn P. Welch, college librarian, started the Vesper series with President Clyde C. Flannery taking the second service.

Southern Union will continue its weekly fifteen minute radio program over WELR Roanoke (each Wednesday at 1:45 CST) with the new public relations director, Douglas Was son, in charge. The program "Adventures in the Classics", under the direction of Professor Robert C. Yoh, will also be continued and expanded.

Officers of the student body are: Coleman Brooks of Mellow Valley, Ala., president; James Robert Bain of Pisgah, Ala., vice-president; Miss Billie Joyce McGlawn, Hanceville, Ala., secretary. Members at large are Dwight Craig of Alexander City and Calvin McCarley of LaFayette, Ala.

President Flannery attended the sessions of the Board of Directors of the Council for Social Action in Chicago and is busily preparing for his coming visits to Minnesota and New England.

—Douglas Wasson,
Public Relations Director

stood what we have tried to teach her about prevention of such a condition."

Mrs. Richard Maynard writes from Tarsus, Turkey: "We have been very busy ever since we arrived in Tarsus attending to all the details of opening school. Our new building was substantially finished when we arrived and we got it ready for use by the time school began.

"By vote of the committee of boys and teachers, the building is to be called "Friendship Hall". (In Turkish Dostluk Binase.) This name expresses the gratitude of us all here for the help you in the U.S.A. have given to make possible this building. The building is not ostentatious, but we have achieved a great deal of space at a minimum cost. The larger classrooms make teaching easier."

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

1955-56 PLEDGES FOR OCWM

Churches listed below have already sent in their pledge cards with goals as indicated for the 1955-56 year for Our Christian World Mission, according to the vote of the congregation of the local church on Our Day of Decision, September 25.

Alabama Central Association:

East Tallassee Liberty	\$720. **
Mt. Creek Union	30.
Seman Balm of Gilead	36.
Seman Community	48. **
Tallassee Mt. Olive	100.
Thorsby United	240. **

East Alabama Association

Alexander City Hunt	\$120. **
LaFayette Pleasant Grove	96. **
LaGrange Hillside	150. *
Lanett Huguley	120. **
Phenix City United	600. **
Roanoke Antioch	240. **
Roanoke First	360. **
Roanoke Lowell	60.
Wadley Congregational	300. ***
Wedowee Noonday	60.
West Point Bethel	125. *

North Alabama Association

Steppville Mt. Grove	100. ***
Garden City	180. *

South Alabama-Northwest Florida

Andalusia First	\$ 96. **
Brantley Indian Creek-Community	48. **
Brantley Liberty	48. **
Clio New Hope	144. **
Headland Blackwood	240. **
Midland City Christian Hill	30. *
Baker Good Hope	180. **
Bonifay New Effort	180. **

Georgia-South Carolina Conference

Ambrose Christian	\$120. ***
Atlanta Center	240. **
Barnesville Fredonia	150. *
Baxley Friendship	240. **
Bristol Antioch	30. *
Buford Duncan's Creek	60. **
Chipley Oak Grove	360. **
Crest-Hebron	100.
Demorest Federated	400.
Douglas First	120. **
Meansville Congregational	35. *

Oxford Sardis	120. **
Pearson Union Hill	300. **
Tifton Vanceville	180. **
Woodbury Jones Chapel	120.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

Evarts First	\$360. **
Chattanooga Pilgrim	2,400. **
Crossville First	300. **
Daisy First	240. **
Deer Lodge	60. **
Glen Mary	48. **
Robbins Barton Chapel	120. **
Nashville Brookmeade	120. **
Pleasant Hill Community	660. **
Soddy First	210. **

49 churches \$11,744.

(1954-55 pledges \$8,477.)

Out of 116 active churches, we have had reports from 50. This leaves 66 churches which have not reported as yet, with goals during 1954-55 of \$9,157. Adding this to the total pledged above, we are assured of \$20,901 for the 1955-56 year, plus any increase in pledges that these 67 churches may make.

** indicates the church accepted the suggested goal.

* indicates the church raised its goal above last year.

*** indicates the church raised its goal above the suggested goal for this year.

Eight of the 50 pledging churches doubled their goals for the 1955-56 year!

Share Our Surplus

(From page 3)

charges as cannot be cared for either under existing U. S. legislature or by arrangements abroad.

It is for these last costs, averaging less than 5% of the value of the commodities distributed, that the commodity distribution appeals are made to the church people in America.

As a matter of fact the costs of distribution are decreasing tremendously. In some instances, they have become so low that more than \$100 worth of food can be distributed for each dollar of expenses.